The Wild Goose

Gouverneur Morris Essays A Conventional Realism

THE WILD GOOSE. By Gouverneur Morris. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

It has begun to enter the minds of American popular novelists, three-quarters of a century or so after Continental novelists have made it plain, that the erotic impulses and adventures of the married and middle-aged are the most interesting there are. In "The Wild Goose" Gouverneur Morris enters the troubled wilds of this unexplored forest with a great display of courage. He imitates all the gestures of literary realism. He even pokes a little glimmer of psychiatric truth into the underbrush now and then. But if it were not for the pole star of orthodoxy on which he keeps his eyes firmly fixed he would never find his way out.

Mr. Morris is bluntly outspoken. He calls a spade a spade. There are few phases of marital intimacy that he is too squeamish to disclose. We learn that Francis Manners lost the love of his wife because he over indulged her. She feared the danger of having another child and he bowed to her will. "It was as if Nature had said, 'Here is this man Manners, who might do much for us, and doesn't; therefore, we repudiate him. A proper ruthlessness with her would have saved them both. Though her husband loved her devotedly and faithfully, she wanted a divorce for no more than the silly reason that she could not live with him whom she had ceased to love while she loved another man. Every morality, every reason, is without avail. "You have only to do as a well bred woman should," urges her mother, "and, though your love for Ogden Fenn may never die, the knowledge that you have been high-minded as a gentlewoman should be will kill all the suffering." Diana Manners may haved feared the atrophying effects of being a high-minded gentlewoman, because she went her own way. No affair, however, founded on such infractions of the code could end in happiness, and her second marriage ends in disillusionment, with her sin always standing between her lover and herself.

Mr. Morris is very sad about the instability of women who are not anchored by a proper quota of children, and about the modern inquity of divorce. There are always these excellent sentiments to reëstablish the proprieties if Mr. Morris has been too fascinating about the technique of marriage. R. D.

Among Those Present

Fiction

IN APPLE BLOSSOM TIME. By Clara Louise Burnham. Published by Houghton-Mifflin Company.
A love story in which a modern knight carries his lady away in an aeroplane.

THE QUEST OF THE SACRED SLIPPER. By Sax Rohmer. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co.
A baffling mystery story involving the theft of the sacred slipper of the Prophet Mahommet.

HUNKINS. By Samuel G. Blythe. Published by George H. Doran Company.
A clever and entertaining political novel.

"OPEN SESAME" and Other Stories. By Mrs. Baillie Reynolds. Published by George H. Doran Company.
War stories of those who stayed at home.

THE RAIN GIRL. By the author of "Patricia Brent, Spinster." Published by George H. Doran Company.
A romance with a silver lining.

THE GIRL OF O. K. VALLEY. By Robert Watson. Published by George H. Doran Company.
A love story laid in Canada.

THE TOUCH OF ABNER. By H. A. Cody. Published by George H. Doran Company.
A rural character story.

A CHALLENGE TO ADVENTURE. By Mrs. Irving Curtis. Published by Marshall-Jones Company.
Invention, love and a German spy move through the plot of Mrs. Curtis's novel.

LITTLE MISS MUFFET. By Elizabeth Kirby. Published by Moffat, Yard & Co.
A whimsical story of a clergyman's daughter who wants to see life, and so she goes to London to be a journalist. The author has a keen sense of humor and her story is a delightful one.

THE LAND OF LAST CHANCE. By G. W. Ogden. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.
A story of land settling in Oklahoma.

THE WAR LORD OF MARS. By Edgar Rice Burroughs. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.
A bold piece of imaginative fiction laid 43,000,000 miles from earth.

Verse

THE BELLS OF CAPISTRANO. By S. H. M. Byers. Published by Potter Brothers' Company, Los Angeles.
Romances, in verse, telling of the picturesque mission days in California.

THE STORY OF OUR NATIONAL BALLADS. By C. A. Browne. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company.
How our national songs came into being.

THE QUEST OF THE BALLAD. By W. Roy Mackenzie. Published by Princeton University Press.
A romance of ballad hunting in Nova Scotia.

NONSENSE BOOK. Published by Marshall-Jones Company, Boston.
A collection of limericks illustrated by Susan Hale.

War

THE WONDER OF WAR IN THE HOLY LAND. By Francis Rolt-Wheeler. Published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., Boston.
A book which shows the difficulty of the campaigns in the waterless deserts of Egypt, Arabia, Palestine and Syria as well as in the burning flood plains of Mesopotamia.

Travel

UP THE MAZARUNI FOR DIAMONDS. By William J. La Varre. Published by Marshall-Jones Company, Boston.
The author, who is a veteran scout, tells the story of his canoe trip up the Mazaruni River in South America.

Juvenile

GEN, THE BATTLE HORSE. By Walter A. Dyer. Published by Henry Holt & Co.
The story of a horse that won the Croix de Guerre.

DOROTHY DAINTY AT THE STONE HOUSE. By Amy Brooks. Published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.
A story for girls not yet sixteen.

ADELE DORING, OF THE SUNNYSIDE CLUB. By Grace May North. Published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.
Adele Doring is the central figure in a club of girls living in California and aiming to brighten their particular corner by doing kind things for others.

CAMP FIRE GIRLS IN WAR AND PEACE. By Isabel Hornibrook. Published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.
The romance of a group of Camp Fire Girls in war.

TOM STRONG, LINCOLN'S SCOUT. By Alfred Bishop Mason. Published by Henry Holt & Co.
Tom Strong finds himself in the White House as the chum of Lincoln's son. The President soon finds use for him in the country's service, and he becomes an active figure in the most stirring events of the Civil War.

DAVID BLAIZE AND THE BLUE DOOR. By E. F. Benson. Published by George H. Doran Company.
A male "Alice" steps through a blue door in his pillow and has incredible experiences in Wonderland. The book has been called a classic of boyhood.

Miscellaneous

HAVE FAITH IN MASSACHUSETTS. By Calvin Coolidge, Governor of Massachusetts. Published by Houghton-Mifflin Company.
A collection of speeches and messages by the man who said "There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time."

NEW WORDS SELF-DEFINED. By C. Alphonso Smith. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co.
Typical sentences selected by the author to define new words which have lately sprung into being.

AMBITION AND SUCCESS. By Orison Swett Marden. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company.
Great ambition, according to the author, means constant strviing, and so success is never reached.

THE BOOK OF HALLOWE'EN. By Ruth B. Kelley. Published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.
The history and legend surrounding a popular holiday.

Magazines

The Home Sector

Alexander Woollcott's story, titled "The Truth About Château Thierry," in the October 11 issue of "The Home Sector," is a frank statement of what actually happened during a battle which Americans have viewed as phenomenal. It was less a military victory than a triumph in morale. The circulated report that roused the fire of patriotic America to a bright flame was, according to Mr. Woollcott, one of the most extraordinary and most helpful delusions in history.

The fiction feature in this issue is "The Little Woman," a baseball story by Heywood Broun. An article on "The Pacific Fleet," by Glaukis; verse, humorous stories and a page of songs which the American Expeditionary Force sang on march, in barracks or just before battle are among the other bright spots in the magazine.

Gossip

Field Marshal Haig's Dispatches

No volume of more historical importance will come out of the war than "Field Marshal Haig's Dispatches," which E. P. Dutton & Co. announce for publication the latter part of November. It has been edited, with notes, by Colonel J. H. Boraston, Earl Haig's private secretary, and will contain a preface by Field Marshal Earl Haig and a foreword by Marshal Foch. The work will contain, in addition to the preface, foreword and notes, almost four hundred pages of dispatches, portraits of the field marshal and of six other generals, twenty-four sketch maps and a case containing ten full-sized linen backed military maps, produced under the supervision of the field marshal himself, and a large scale map of the position of the British armies on September 26, 1918. These dispatches will always constitute one of the chief sources of information concerning the operations on the Western front during the war, and will be, of course, the one source of authoritative knowledge concerning the participation of the British armies.

Romain Rolland's New Novel

Printers permitting, Romain Rolland's first novel since "Jean-Christophe" will be published on October 25. It is called "Colas Breugnon, Burgundian."

Ellen Glasgow, Novelist

After a silence of three years, Ellen Glasgow has written a new novel, to be published by Doubleday, Page & Co. on October 28. The book is titled "The Builders" and deals with the evolution of American life in Southern Virginia during the last two years. Hugh Walpole recently named Ellen Glasgow as one of America's six best novelists.

The Flying Spy

Brilliant War Story By Daring Aviator

THE FLYING SPY. By Lieutenant Carillo de Carlo. Translated from the Italian by Maria Sermolino. E. P. Dutton & Co.

The tremendous achievement that Lieutenant de Carlo performed behind the Austrian lines in Italy has been recognized by his government with that rarest of all military decorations, the Italian Gold Medal for Valor.

The account that he has written of one of the most important feats of individual heroism in the whole war is an achievement only second to his contribution to the Allied cause.

Lieutenant de Carlo by daring, keen-witted espionage obtained the plans of the "death throe" drive of Austria against Italy, and through the smoke of the enemy's preparatory bombardment sent carrier pigeons winging back to his own army with the outline of the coming attack.

By his sure sense of color and appreciation of dramatic values he has given to the literature of the war one of its most noteworthy volumes.

For Lieutenant de Carlo, who has lived romance, has also the rare gift of writing that elusive lady as he himself has known her. His book is one that will thrill not only Italian hearts but all that cherish a love of gallant deeds nobly done.

From the rather unfortunate title to the last page the book is filled with amazing things, written amazingly well. It is fortunate that Major General Emilio Guglielmotti, military attaché of the Italian Embassy at Washington, has written an introduction vouching for the authenticity of the volume's contents. For at times they sound like the work of some glorified Italian E. Phillips Oppenheim.

This young Italian aviator, in looking upon the war and his nation's part in it, sees beyond the bloody sweat of present human suffering and overlooks the squalor of the present to write of Italy's struggle as Froissart wrote the deeds of chivalry.

For him, Italy is something more than an ideal or a mere country. Italy is his mother, and he writes of her as a son might write. And Venice, before which the Italian line held, is his sweetheart, and of her he speaks as a passionate lover.

From a farewell visit to his beloved city Lieutenant de Carlo embarked by airplane on his perilous enterprise; was deposited with a comrade behind the Austrian line, and for weeks following lived the precarious life of a spy. His companion was captured and he was hunted across the country side. But he outwitted his pursuers, and the information he sent back to the Italian army helped overthrow the Hapsburg empire.

The story of this almost unbelievable achievement is told by an artist, who, freed from the Anglo-Saxon curse of self-consciousness, can write of his own achievements naively and without beclouding their splendor with false modesty.

Now and again there is a passage in the splendid story that seems almost too fine to have happened in this war-dirtied world. While slinking through a town near the Austrian line Lieutenant de Carlo sees an Italian girl shot down for her repulse of a Bosnian officer.

"As though turned to stone I stood still a long time contemplating her. In a courtyard nearby a red rose bush was in bloom and close to it a white rose gave forth its fragrance. I plucked the white rose, two large red ones and with a few green leaves I placed them near the corpse. Our soldiers were buried enveloped in the tricolor, and this young martyr should receive from the hands of an Italian officer the comfort and honor of the tricolor.'

It is too bad that Lieutenant de Carlo could not have contrived to win additional honors on the other battle fronts and then to write for the entire cause of the Allies an interpretation and appreciation as inspiring as "The Flying Spy" is toward Italy's part in the conflict. F. F. V.

Abolishing Death

A New Heaven Seen in Book by Basil King

THE ABOLISHING OF DEATH. By Basil King. Published by the Cosmopolitan Book Corporation.

Roughly speaking, there are two approaches to spiritualism. The Society of Psychical Research attacks the subject in scientific manner. It examines psychic phenomena with the disinterested purpose of finding out the truth. There is, too, the sentimental approach resorted to by individuals who are spiritualists because of bereavement or because they are possessed of impressionable, fanciful natures.

Certainly, Basil King does not belong to the scientific group. Aside from a firm Christian belief in the immortality of the soul and as firm a faith in the integrity and artlessness of the girl who writes the messages from the psychic world, the author offers no argument in support of spiritualism. Apparently he himself stands in need of no further proof.

Most of the book is composed of messages to the author from an unnamed famous personage. Mr. King comments on these messages with his usual fluency; he is anxious to be clear, and is less lavish of descriptive words and phrases than in his novels.

He believes in these communications with a truly religious fervor, for in them, he has evidently found a satisfying and acceptable philosophy.

The New Heaven described in the messages is interesting in its relation to modern life. It is a Heaven as appropriate for the up-to-date soul as was the old Heaven of golden streets and eternal leisure for the more restful mediæval spirits. If any of us craves immortality, it is to progress or satisfy our unfulfilled desires. In this paradise there is a chance for both. Every one, even the animals, advance, and, according to the spirit, Henry Talbot, "nothing is more touching than the way in which repressed longings seem to be brought out and satisfied." It is a heaven fit for Freud! V. R.

The Tunnel

Fourth in Series of Impressionistic Novels

THE TUNNEL. By Dorothy M. Richardson. Published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Our own Amy Lowell, in a recent article in "The Bookman," has put Dorothy Richardson in the forefront of modern English novelists. There is rightly a strong bond between them, if only that Dorothy Richardson holds the outposts of impressionism in her field as Amy Lowell does in hers. They are one in their creed—that the meaning and reward of life is consciousness itself; life, for its own sake, is conscious, as it were. It has no pattern—it comes to no period, but it is absorbing. Both are trying to pull out of the form they work in a means for conveying their sense of the exceedingly sharp urgency and intense savor of it, and they do it by a similar technique.

"The Tunnel" is the fourth of a series in which Miss Richardson has set in motion a young girl, Miriam Henderson, in what may be inadequately described as her adventures in consciousness. Through what scenes "Pointed Roofs," "Backwater" and "Honeycomb" have already taken her is only lightly indicated in "The Tunnel" and does not greatly matter, since "The Tunnel" has no more form than a section of flowing water. It needs neither the three books that have preceded it nor the one already announced to follow to give it completion, any more than one needs to view a river from its source to its end to get an impression of it. All the traditions of novel writing are cast away. The effort to crush incidents into the arbitrary form of a plot is given up. People come into the scene without preparation and leave it as casually. All people, all life, all emotion are seen through Miriam's sense of them. The curious power of this method is that she is not an obstruction; she is a divining rod. Through her one gets closer to the texture of reality than through the novelist's objective view.

With so much clutter removed, the emotional current of "The Tunnel" is extraordinarily clear. Miriam Henderson's life in London is featureless enough on the surface. She is secretary to a dentist at £1 a week and lives in a little room under the roof in a London lodging house. But the vast adventurousness, the mysteriousness, the realizations and frustrations of it are epic, not because of what actually happened, but because it is keyed to all the vibrating undertones of her experience. The recurrent rhythms of escape and imprisonment, of loneliness and multitudinous companionship of a great city underlie the book. Nowhere has the essential life of the unsheltered woman been so finely caught as here. Jan and Mag, who live curiously casual and ample lives, are the best realizations of the new woman in modern novels.

There is in it all an astringent feminine and feminist consciousness. None of this throbbing egotism, this keen search for self-realization is without its critical implication.

"The Tunnel" is impalpable and incommunicable—it is the all and nothing of life. R. D.